

JAN 08 2007

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This is in response to the official action dated September 8, 2006. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim rejection under 35 USC § 112

The Examiner rejected claims 1-10 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and directly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1, 2-10 have been amended to overcome this rejection.

Claim rejection under 35 USC § 103

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected as being unpatenable over Lautenschlager, (US 4,251,900) in view of Beneke et al, (US 5,012,551). In response, applicant submits that neither the Lautenschlager reference nor the Benecke reference disclose or suggest any hinging mechanism which includes any engagement of portions, such as joint arm portions (such as 24a; 24b in the present invention) which are displaceable relative to one another such that they engage telescopically. Lautenschlager discloses a "over-center element" which is biased by a closing spring ; Benecke also does not include a telescopic hinging mechanism. Claim 1 has been amended to now also include this feature.

Accordingly, claims 1 and 2 should also be allowed.

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CONDITIONAL PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

If entry and consideration of the amendments above requires an extension of time,
Applicants respectfully request that this be considered a petition therefor. The Assistant
Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee(s) due in this connection to Deposit Account No.
14-1263.

ADDITIONAL FEE

Please charge any insufficiency of fees, or credit any excess, to Deposit Account No. 14-
1263.

Respectfully submitted,
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